

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 2008-428-C - ORDER NO. 2009-173

MARCH 25, 2009

IN RE:	Application of Swiftel, LLC for a Certificate	)	ORDER WAIVING TIME
	of Public Convenience and Necessity to	)	LIMIT AND GRANTING
	Provide Local Exchange	)	EXTENSION TO
	Telecommunications Services and for	)	CONCLUDE DOCKET
	Flexible Regulation	)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) on the request filed by Swiftel, LLC (“Swiftel” or “the Company”) for waiver of the one hundred twenty (120) day time limit for disposition of this proceeding and for an extension of that period by sixty (60) days.

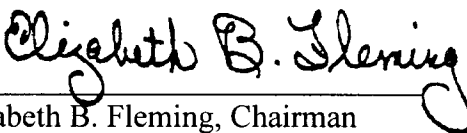
S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-9-280 (B) (Supp. 2008) requires that this Commission conclude its consideration of cases requiring the issuance of Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity for the provision of local telecommunications services within a total of one hundred twenty (120) days, which includes a sixty (60) day period, with the possibility of one sixty (60) day extension. The sixty (60) day extension was invoked in the present case, to allow a total of one hundred twenty (120) days. The Application of Swiftel for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide local exchange telecommunications in South Carolina was filed with the Commission on November 18, 2008. Accordingly, the statutory requirement for the present case is that it be concluded by March 19, 2009.

Upon request submitted by Swiftel, the Hearing Examiner for this case continued the scheduled hearing in order that various issues pending in the case might be further explored. This has led to challenges for the parties in completing the case by the designated date. Accordingly, the Company, with the concurrence of the Office of Regulatory Staff (“ORS”), has requested a waiver of the one hundred twenty (120) day statute and an extension beyond that of sixty (60) days, so that the parties may have the opportunity to resolve the issues remaining in this docket.

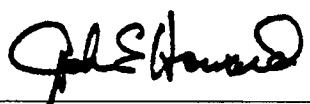
We believe that this is a reasonable request. Certainly, the parties should be afforded additional time in which to attempt to resolve the outstanding issues in this case. Accordingly, we grant the requested waiver of the one hundred twenty (120) day deadline, and we grant the extension. We hold that the new deadline for final resolution of this case shall be May 18, 2009.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Elizabeth B. Fleming, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
John E. Howard, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)